

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 31, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification, drawings, and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15, and 17-21 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 9, 14, and 16 have been canceled. Claims 22-41 are new. No new matter is added. Applicant submits the pending claims for consideration in view of the following.

Drawings Objections

The Office Action objected to Figure 5 for referencing the “CCD” and “PGW” with reference number 18. Additionally, the Office Action objected to the Drawings on the grounds that the Specification does not include the reference number 18. Furthermore, the Office Action objected to the Drawings on the grounds that the Specification does not include reference number 16 as recited in the Specification.

As presented above, Applicant has provided a Replacement Figure for Figure 5 and has amended the first full paragraph of page 13 of the Specification in such a manner that overcomes these objections. Withdrawal of these rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The Office Action objected to the first full paragraph of page 8 and to the third full paragraph of page 12 for minor informalities. As presented above, Applicant has amended these portions of the Specification in a manner that overcomes the objections corresponding thereto. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

§102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-5, 10-13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Boivin (US 2003/0092436, hereinafter “Boivin”). The Office Action took the position that each of the limitations of the rejected claims is disclosed by Boivin. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Boivin does not recite all the limitations of the pending claims.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-8, 10-13, 15, and 17-18 depend, is generally directed to a method that includes receiving at a routing register a message associated with an inactive subscriber of a communications network and including data relating to the identity of the subscriber. The method also includes selectively routing the message, based on the identity of the subscriber and on routing information stored at the routing register, from the routing register to an inactive subscriber register for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers. The method also includes updating the routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 5 with the Replacement Figure provided herewith. The Replacement Figure depicts a PGW 16 and a CCB 18. Acceptance of the Replacement Figure is kindly requested.

the message at the inactive subscriber register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service the subscriber.

Claim 19 is generally directed to a system that includes an active subscriber register and an inactive subscriber register. The inactive subscriber register includes a storage configured to store subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network, a receiver configured to receive a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated, and a processor configured to provision the active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message. The system also includes a routing register that includes a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network and a processor configured to route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and update the routing information for at least one of the inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when the at least one of the inactive subscribers becomes active.

Claim 20, upon which claims 24-31 depend, is generally directed to an apparatus that includes a storage configured to store subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network, a receiver configured to receive a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated, and a processor configured to provision an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

Claim 21 is generally directed to an apparatus that includes a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network. The apparatus also includes a processor configured to route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and update the routing information for at least one of the inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when the at least one of the inactive subscribers becomes active.

Claim 22 is generally directed to a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium. The computer program is configured to control a processor to perform operations that include receiving at a routing register a message associated with an inactive subscriber of a communication network and including data relating to the identity of the subscriber. The operations also include selectively routing the message, based on the identity of the subscriber and on routing information stored at the routing register, from the routing register to an active subscriber register for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers. The operations also include updating the routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of the message at the inactive subscriber register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service the subscriber.

Claim 23, upon which claims 35-40 depend, is generally directed to a method that includes storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network at

an inactive subscriber register, receiving at the inactive subscriber register a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated, and provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

Claim 32, upon which claims 33-34 depend, is generally directed to a service routing register that includes a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network and a processor configured to route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and update the routing information for at least one of the inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when the at least one of the inactive subscribers becomes active.

Claim 41 is generally directed to a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium. The computer program configured to control a processor to perform operations that include storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network at an inactive subscriber register, receiving at the inactive subscriber register a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated, and provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

Each of the foregoing claims recites limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by Boivin.

Boivin generally discloses a method and system that enables customers to reuse old telephone numbers. In Boivin, when a customer buys a first mobile phone, the customer is assigned a phone number which is stored once an account for the first mobile phone expires. Upon buying a second mobile phone, the Boivin system enables the customer to use a new phone number for the second mobile phone or reuse the number of the first mobile phone. This enables a customer to buy multiple mobile phones and still maintain the same phone number.

However, Boivin fails to disclose or suggest “update said routing information for at least one of said inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when said at least one of said inactive subscribers becomes active,” as recited in claims 21, and as analogously recited in claims 1, 19, 22, and 32.

Additionally, Boivin fails to disclose or suggest “provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message,” as recited in claim 23, and as analogously recited in claims 19-20, and 41.

Instead, Boivin discloses that when a customer places a new call on a recently activated RDP 214. An MSC 208 connects the call with a PSP 202 based on the MIN of the RDP. The PSP 202 connects the call to a server 218 to determine that the RDP is new. The server 218 then connects the calls to an IVR 222, which determines that the user has a previous phone number that the user wishes to associate with the new phone. The IVR verifies that the previous phone number is currently inactive, and sends the

previous phone number to the MSC 208, so that the previous phone number is associated with the MIN of the RDP, thereby enabling the new phone to have the previous phone number.

It appears that the Office Action believes the PSP 202 to be comparable to the inactive subscriber register recited in the claims. In paragraph [0025] of Boivin, the server 218 uses the phone MIN to obtain information for determining that the phone is new. However, the PSP 202 is not disclosed as provisioning an active subscriber register and/or updating a routing register such that subsequent signaling relating to the activated RDP is routed to an active subscriber register. Additionally, the server 218 is disclosed as sending a directory/MIN combination to MSC 208, which stores the association of the previous phone number and the MIN of the phone. However, similar to the PSP 202, these features are not disclosed as provisioning an active subscriber register and/or updating a routing register such that subsequent signaling relating to the activated RDP is routed to an active subscriber register.

Accordingly, Boivin fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of claims 1, 19-23, 32, and 41. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 19-21 be withdrawn. Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-5, 10-13, and 15 be withdrawn for their dependency from claim 1 and for the patentable subject matter recited therein. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts the patentability of claims 22-41 on similar grounds.

Claims 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Coad et al. (US 2003/0190913, hereinafter “Coad”). As presented above, claim 17 was previously presented as an independent claim with claim 18 depending thereon. However, claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Consequently, the subscriber registration method disclosed by Coad fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of claims 17-18 due to the dependency of claims 17-18 from claim 1, in addition to the patentable subject matter recited therein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts the patentability of claims 22-41 on similar grounds.

§103(a) Rejection

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boivin in view of Kowarsch (US 2004/0132449, hereinafter “Kowarsch”). The Office Action took the position that that Boivin fails to disclose all the limitations of claims 6-9. However, the Office Action also took the position that the limitations not disclosed by Boivin are disclosed by Kowarsch in a manner that renders claims 6-8 obvious.

Boivin is discussed above. Kowarsch generally discloses a method and apparatus for permitting a mobile station to operate in a visited network. This is achieved by monitoring an attempt by the mobile station to sign onto a visited network, determining whether a predetermined condition is met, and automatically initiating the creation of an account for the mobile station in the visited network.

However, a combination of Bovin and Kowarsch fails to disclose or suggest “updating said routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of said message at the inactive subscriber register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service said subscriber,” as recited in claim 1, from which claims 6-9 depend.

The deficiencies of Boivin with respect to claim 1 are detailed above. In short, Boivin fails to disclose or suggest at least the foregoing limitations. Similarly, Kowarsch also fails to disclose the limitations. Accordingly, a combination of Boivin and Kowarsch fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of claims 6-8 because of their dependency from claim 1, as well as for the patentable subject matter recited therein. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts the patentability of claims 22-41 on similar grounds.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims promptly pass to allowance and issue.

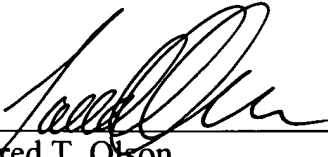
However, if for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is kindly requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Additionally, the foregoing comments made with respect to the positions presented in the Office Action are not to be construed as acquiescence with other positions presented in the Office Action that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, the above arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other valid reasons for patentability of the claim or other claims. Additionally, the Applicant does not acquiesce that the cited art anticipates or renders obvious any of the claims as previously presented, and reserve the right to pursue any of the previously presented claims in a subsequent application.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Replacement Drawing Sheet (Fig. 5)
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Check No. 019120